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WYCOMBE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1967

Medical Officer of Health:
A. J. MUIR, M.B., Ch.B. B.Hy., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:
J. P. PERRY, M.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.

W Y C O M B E

R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

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WYCOMBE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1967

CHAIRMAN:- C.E.BOWLER, D.C.M., J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:- Sq/Ldr.B.LOCK, B.E.M.,J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

at 1st May,1967

CHAIRMAN:- Miss J.H.C.COUPER

The Chairman of the Council
The Vice-Chairman of the Council
The Immediate Past Chairman of the Council
The Chairman of the Finance Committee
The Chairman of the Public Works Committee
The Chairman of the General Purposes Committee
The Chairman of the Town Planning & Plans Committee

Mr.R.C.Ashwood
Mrs. M.I.Burt
Miss J.H.C.Couper
Mr.A.T.Gibson
Mr.H.A.Harris
Mr.J.F.Lunnon
Mrs. M.A.H.Nickson
Mr.R.G.Peacham
Mrs. F.H.Pitcher
Mrs. P.M.Sharp
Mr.G.Spear
Mrs. D.M.Walker
Mrs. M.E.Young

STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A.J.MUIR, M.B., Ch.B. B.Hy. D.P.H.

(Also Area and Divisional School Medical Officer):- Buckinghamshire County Council

AND

Medical Officer of Health:- High Wycombe Borough Council

and

Marlow Urban District Council

Main Office Address:- Municipal Health Centre, High Wycombe.

Telephone:- Office:-H.Wyc.24031
Home:- H.Wyc.27338

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W.E.ANWYL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.I.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

J.P.PERRY,M.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.

Office Address:- WYCOMBE R.D.C.
Public Health Department
Bellfield House,
80,Oxford Road,
High Wycombe

Telephone:- Office, H.Wyc, 21031
Home, Naphill 2115

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

B.R.NAGLE,M.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.

DISTRICT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

B. ASHFIELD,	M.A.P.H.I.
S.A.LATIMER,	C.R.S.H.
C.F.PIDGEON,	M.A.P.H.I. (Resgd.Apr.'67)
B.E.THWAITES,	M.R.S.H.,M.A.P.H.I. (Apptd.Aug.'67)
G. YOUNG	M.A.P.H.I.
N.C.SKEDGE	STUDENT P.H.I.

CLERKS

MISS R.M.SPENCER
MISS S.E.BALL

RODENT OPERATIVES

E.V.BOWLER
MRS.D.KIBBLES

WYCOMBE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department
Bellfield House,
80, Oxford Road,
High Wycombe.

October, 1968

To the Chairman and Members of

Wycombe Rural District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I submit my report for the year 1967.

1967 saw no end to the yearly increase in the population of the district. At 63,680 this was 2,090 above the figure for 1966. Births exceeded deaths by 816 so the balance 1,274 can be attributed to inward migration. There were 1,295 births, 71 more than in the previous year but because of the rise in population there was only a marginal rise in the birth rate from 20.1 to 20.3 per 1,000.

479 deaths occurred - a drop of 66 on the previous years number. Of the deaths 224 were from diseases of the circulatory system - cancer coming next with 102, there being a substantial drop in the lung cancer deaths which numbered 15 compared with 34 the previous year. It would be pleasing if this had any significance but this is too much to hope for.

Infant deaths numbered 16 an increase of 3 so that having regard to the increased number of births there was a slight rise in the infant mortality rate from 10.62 to 12.4 per 1,000 births, the neo natal rate being 10.8.

Measles was prevalent during the year there being 748 notified cases. Scarlet Fever accounted for 23 notifications, tuberculosis coming next with 6, with one death attributable. The tuberculosis figures are very pleasing continuing as they do a consistent trend over the last few years. As regards measles it may quite well be that the present vaccination campaign will do away with the two-yearly epidemics which have been characteristic of this disease.

In conclusion, I acknowledge my indebtedness to Mr. Perry and his staff for their great assistance so freely given.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A.J.MUIR

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS

Area in acres	71,232
Population (1961 Census)	51,252
Registrar General's estimate of population mid 1967	63,680
Number of inhabitable houses on 31st December 1967	19,937
Rateable Value as at 31st March 1967	£2,725,823
Estimated Product of Penny Rate, 31st March 1967	£10,880
General Rate in the Pound	11/4
Rate Product(net) including Grants	£1,504,056

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	
Number	1,295
Rate per 1,000 Population	20.3
Comparability Factor	0.98
Adjusted Birth Rate	19.89
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	4.9
Stillbirths	
Number	12
Rate per,1000 total live & still births	.90
Total Live & Still Births	1,307
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	16
Infant Mortality Rates	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	12.4
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	12.1
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	15.6
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	10.8
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	7.7
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births & deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live & still births)	21.4
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	
Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live & still births	0.0

DEATHS

Number of deaths	Male	224
	Female	255
		479

Death Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population	7.5
Comparability Factor	1.11
Adjusted Local Death Rate	8.32
Death Rate of England & Wales	11.2
Tuberculosis Death Rate. Total County	0.027

INFANT MORTALITY

16 infants died under the age of one year.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	10	5	15
Illegitimate	0	1	1
	10	6	16

This represents a mortality rate of 12.4 per 1,000 related births compared with 15.7 as a general figure for England and Wales.

Neo-natal mortality rate - 10.8 compared with a county rate of 11.4

MATERNAL DEATHS

(a) From puerperal sepsis	0
(b) From other maternal causes	0

TABLE OF DEATHS

	Disease	Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	1	-	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic diseases	1	-	1
4.	Diptheria	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal Infections ..	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-	-
9.	Other infectious diseases .	-	1	1
10.	Cancer, stomach	4	7	11
11.	Cancer, lungs	12	3	15
12.	Cancer, breast	-	12	12
13.	Cancer, uterus	-	3	3
14.	Other cancers	26	33	59
15.	Leukemia, aleukemia	2	-	2
16.	Diabetes	1	-	1
17.	Vascular lesions, nervous system	26	40	66
18.	Coronary diseases, angina...	50	42	92
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	4	5	9
20.	Other heart diseases	10	28	38
21.	Other circulatory diseases.	10	9	19

Table of Deaths (Continued)		Males	Females	Totals
22.	Influenza	-	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	16	19	35
24.	Bronchitis	19	7	26
25.	Other respiratory diseases	5	4	9
26.	Gastric & duodenal ulcer	2	3	5
27.	Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	1	1	2
28.	Nephritis, nephrosis.	2	1	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth & abortion	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	3	3	6
32.	Other defined & ill defined diseases	15	21	36
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	6	3	9
34.	Other accidents	3	6	9
35.	Suicide	2	3	5
	All causes	224	255	479

MATERNAL MORTALITY

		Rate per 1,000 Total (Live & still) Births
(a)	Maternal causes, excluding abortion	0.00
(b)	Due to abortion	0.00
(c)	Total maternal mortality	0.00

CANCER DEATHS

Deaths from cancer (all ages)

Males	44
Females	58
	102

Yearly comparison of cancer deaths:-

1967	102
1966	112
1965	76
1964	92
1963	85
1962	94
1961	89

The following organs were affected:-

Stomach	11
Lungs	15
Breast	12
Uterus	3
Other Sites	59
Leukemia	2
	102

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS

Tuberculosis Death Rate (all cases)	0.01
Total Deaths-Respiratory Tuberculosis	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate	0.01
Total Deaths- Non Respiratory Tuberculosis	-
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate	-
Total Deaths - Respiratory (excluding Tuberculosis)	71
Respiratory Death Rate (excluding Tuberculosis	1.11

POPULATIONS, BIRTH AND MORTALITY RATES FOR THE YEAR, 1967

District	Population Census 1961	Registrar-General's estimated Population mid - 1967	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Maternal Mortality per 1,000 live and still births.
Bucks County	484,094	551,470	18.1.	8.9	0.027	15.7	11.4	0.20
Total Urban	236,943	274,290	19.6	8.6	0.033	14.7	9.9	0.37
Total Rural	247,151	278,180	16.6	9.2	0.022	16.9	13.2	0.00
Wycombe Rural	51,252	63,680	20.3	7.5	0.016	12.4	10.8	0.00
England & Wales	46,071,604	48,390,800	17.2	11.2	-	18.3	12.5	-

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) 1967

	Total Cases Notified	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yr.	3 yr.	4 yr.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25+ yr.	Age Unknown
Scarlet Fever	23	-	-	4	1	3	12	1	1	1	-
Whooping Cough	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	465	15	51	64	62	55	198	10	4	2	4
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-
Dysentery	5	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis Infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Post Infectious	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	499	15	52	68	64	59	212	11	5	8	5

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES DURING THE YEAR 1967

Age Periods	Tuberculosis - New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-
15	1	-	-	-
25-44	2	-	-	-
45-64	2	1	-	1
65 +	-	-	-	-
Totals	5	1	-	1

DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1967

Age Periods.	Tuberculosis - Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-
25-44	-	-	-	-
45-64	1	-	-	-
65 +	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	-	-	-

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

This is carried out as formerly on an area basis. All persons under forty are eligible and also those above that age who may be at special risk.

Oral vaccine is normally given at six months - the course comprising three doses at monthly intervals and a fourth dose is given at five years of age. The vaccine may be given concurrently with the triple vaccine against diphtheria, whooping cough & tetanus.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS

A combined vaccine is used to immunise against these diseases.

In 1967, 1120 children were immunised against diphtheria, 1119 against tetanus and 1073 against whooping cough. There were 1746 children "boosted" against diphtheria.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

845 vaccinations were performed during 1967, re-vaccinations numbered 43.

B.C.G. VACCINATION

Immunisation against tuberculosis was offered to all 13 year olds attending the secondary schools. After a preliminary tuberculin test all negative reactors were vaccinated. In this Division 1494 children were tested of whom 1285 were vaccinated - roughly 88% of those tested.

TUBERCULOSIS

5 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, 1 non pulmonary. There was one death from pulmonary disease.

HOSPITALS

Hospitals available to local residents are as follows

General:- High Wycombe
Amersham
Stoke Mandeville
Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury
Battle Hospital, Reading
Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Taplow

Maternity:- Shrubbery Maternity Home
Townlands Hospital, Henley
Amersham General Hospital
Canadian Red Cross Hospital

Fevers:- Stoke Mandeville &
Maidenhead Isolation Hospitals

Mental:- St. John's Hospital, Stone

AMBULANCE SERVICES

These are the responsibility of the Bucks County Council. The local station is at West End Street, High Wycombe.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47 - No formal action

CESSPOOL EMPTYING, 1967

I am indebted to your Engineer & Surveyor for the following figures:-

District	Estimated Gallonage Removed
1. Ilmer, Longwick, Owlswick, Meadle, Princes Risborough, Monks Risborough, Askett, Gt. & Lt. Kimble, Kimblewick, Marsh, Terrick, Butlers Cross, Ellesborough, Dunsmore, Cadsdean, Whiteleaf, Green Hailey, Gt. & Lt. Hampden	2,448,200
2. Bledlow, Bledlow Ridge, Horsenden, Saunderton, Routs Green, Radnage, Stokenchurch, Water End, Studley Green, Horsley Green, Beacons Bottom, Spriggs Alley.	2,901,800
3. Downley, Piddington, Lane End, Wheeler End, Bolter End, Cadmore End	2,700,440
4. Frieth, Ibstone, Fawley, Hambleden, Turville, Skirmett, Medmenham, Fingest Bovingdon Green, North End, South End.	2,266,650
5. Gt & Lt.Marlow, Sheepridge, Tylers Green, Penn, Loudwater, Wooburn Moor, Wooburn, Wooburn Green, Cores End, Hawks Hill, Berghers Hill, Bourne End, Hedsor, Heavens Lea, Harvest Hill, Wooburn Common, Flackwell Heath, Well End, Winchbottom, Handy Cross, Booker.	2,124,050
6. Gt.Kingshill, Widmer End, Four Ashes, Cryers Hill, Spurlands End, Western Dene, Naphill, Walters Ash, Coombe Lane, Boss Lane, New Road, Trees Road, Terriers, Eastern Dene, Speen, Lacey Green, Loosley Row, Hampden Row, Parslows Hillocks, Bryants Bottom, North Dean, Bradenham	2,366,450
TOTAL	14,807,590

RAINFALL, 1967

I am indebted to the Director of the Forest Products Research Laboratory, Princes Risborough, for the following particulars of rainfall recorded during 1967

Rainfall recorded at Princes Risborough Station: 333 feet above sea level				
Month	Monthly Rain-fall Inches	No. of days on which rain fell with .01 or more measured.	Largest Rainfall Date	Amount Inches
January	1.68	15	22nd	0.45
February	2.36	12	27th	0.65
March	1.74	12	8th	0.55
April	1.81	13	10th	0.44
May	5.22	23	14th	1.02
June	1.81	5	25th	1.03
July	2.74	9	22nd	1.83
August	1.98	14	18th	0.46
September	2.41	16	4th	0.53
October	5.09	22	3rd	0.52
November	1.86	14	2nd	0.56
December	2.49	18	19th	0.70
Totals	31.19	173		8.74

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1967

To the Chairman and Members of
the Wycombe Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Environmental Health Services for the year 1967.

I desire to pay a sincere tribute to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their active interest and support in all matters affecting the sanitary conditions of our district.

My thanks are especially due to all the members of my staff, without whose help and loyal co-operation during the year, the results given in the following pages would not have been possible.

I am,

Mr Chairman, Ladies and
Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J.P. PERRY.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

The work of the Council is reflected to some extent in the report submitted under the following sections:-

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Housing

Four unfit cottages converted, repaired and improved to form two three-bedroom houses, with integral garage.

Repair and improvement of an unfit cottage.

SECTION 'A'

HOUSING.

The Problem.

In the 1966 annual report I stated that since the war some 700,000 properties have been demolished and more than 2 million people rehoused, and that during that time just over 1 million houses have been improved with the aid of grants. Also that it had been estimated that about three quarters of a million houses are below the present minimum standard and that approximately 3 million lack one or more of the basic amenities of W.C., cold water tap, hot water supply and bath.

A recent survey however, carried out by a team of public health inspectors seconded to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government has shown that the size of the unfit section of houses is much greater than had been previously estimated. The Ministry have concluded from this survey that there are 1,800,000 unfit houses instead of about 800,000 as had previously been believed. Further sample surveys by public health inspectors are to be carried out in larger urban areas with pressing housing problems.

The high hopes of the immediate post war years that our housing problem would quickly be solved have not been realised. The solution still appears to be a long way off in many areas, and in all areas shortage of new accommodation, elimination of unfit houses, improvement of older houses, multiple occupation, overcrowding, repair and maintenance will be with us for many years.

Bad housing is recognised as one of the major environmental health problems. It required more that the elimination of unfit houses; it demands the provision in old as well as new houses of all the facilities we now consider necessary for comfort and healthyliving, coupled with a clean atmosphere and the elimination of unneccessary intrusions such as noise.

The Housing Plan.

The Government White Paper on housing entitled "The Housing Programme 1965 to 1970" defines a National Plan to give greater priority to housing than it has had for many years. The aim now is to increase the rate of new building to half a million a year by 1970 and to intensify action in connection with the complementary tasks of keeping structurally sound houses in good repair; in improving those which lack modern amenities and finally in demolishing and replacing those which are unfit.

House Improvements.

The White Paper proposes a shift of emphasis in the housing programme from new house building to the improvement of older houses. This involves increasing the present rate of improvement from 130,000 a year to 200,000 as soon as possible.

The Housing Act 1964 empowered local authorities for the first time to compel owners to improve tenanted houses in improvement areas and tenement blocks, and elsewhere at the request of the tenant. Up to the end of 1967 however, only 200 local authorities had initiated compulsory improvement action. Of these 133 had declared improvement areas and 162 had taken action on dwellings outside improvement areas or on tenement dwellings. This action resulted in the improvement of 2,551 dwellings in improvement areas and 860 other dwellings making a total of 3,411.

In order to stimulate action the enthusiastic interest of local authorities, their officers, house owners and tenants must be secured. More attractive grants are needed and freely available loans together with a simplification of administrative procedure. The present powers are complicated and require a long drawn out procedure, involve the threat of purchase notices, provide for a tenant to delay progress for five years and do not apply to owner-occupiers. A simpler, quicker method is needed by the serving of a direct improvement notice, which subject to appeal to the magistrates, provides for enforcement by penalty or by work in default. This power to serve notices should extend to owner-occupiers.

Although persuasive powers muct be the principal means of approach to owners, the ultimate success is directly proportionate to the compulsion which might eventually be brought to bear.

Standards of Fitness.

The present standard by which the fitness of houses for human habitation is judged is that contained in Section 4 of the Housing Act, 1957. This standard is low and out of date with the result that houses lacking amenities which are now accepted as essential have to be regarded, in a legal sense, as fit. The application of this standard can do little more than ensure that a house is kept at a standard at which it was constructed, and provides the bare necessities of shelter.

The weakness of the Section 4 standard has, in effect, been acknowledged by the introduction first, of the discretionary grants scheme, then the standard grants scheme and, finally, the compulsory improvement scheme in the Housing Act 1964.

A new "penal" standard of fitness is urgently needed and a twelve points standard applicable to discretionary improvement grants would be a far more realistic means of judging the suitability of a house for occupation than the existing fitness standard.

Repair and Maintenance.

The powers of local authorities to secure the repair of properties have often been criticised and considered to be inadequate. Under the provisions of the Public Health Acts, houses are required to fall into disrepair to such an extent as to constitute a statutory nuisance before an owner can be required to carry out repairs to remedy defects.

Local authorities also have powers under the Housing Act 1957 but they can be used only if a house is unfit when judged by the standard in section 4. Furthermore a landlord cannot be made to make a house fit for human habitation if this is not possible at "reasonable expense". This expression which has never been legally defined has caused great concern to many officers of local authorities. The Association of Public Health Inspectors proposed in 1964 that "reasonable expense" should be dropped from future housing legis - lation. There is an increasing need for local authorities to possess powers to enable them to insist on the proper maintenance of houses so that they are kept in good repair, and not as at present await the deterioration of houses to such an extent as to constitute a statutory nuisance or become unfit for human habitation before the owner can be called upon to remedy house defects.

Review of Housing in the Rural District.

A survey of houses to determine unfitness and suitability for improvement is pertinent to approximately 1,600 houses in the district.

It has recently been estimated that there are approximately 200 unfit houses in the area. Progress in dealing with these properties will be dependant to a large extent, on the availability of housing accommodation for the occupying families. The suitability of houses for this purpose will in some measure be dependant upon the relative positions of the houses to be demolished and the houses to which the families are expected to move.

Many persons living in unfit houses wish to remain in villages or areas where they have lived for many years, and a problem then arises when the policy is to build council houses in the more thickly populated parts of the district.

As indicated in the previous report a Pilot Scheme was undertaken in connection with securing the improvement of houses, and following this scheme a survey of the whole district was carried out. Over 1,200 houses were inspected and owners of the properties encouraged to improve their properties. During 1967 a further 715 visits have been made to houses in the district for this purpose.

During the year under review grants paid by the Council numbered 45 comprising 6 discretionary grants and 39 standard grants. Altogether 919 grants have been paid since 1953; the number of grants paid in each year from 1954 to 1967 being as follows:-

Year.	Discretionary.	Standard.
1954	11	
1955	55	
1956	54	
1957	58	
1958	59	
1959	96	3
1960	59	32
1961	55	25
1962	34	31
1963	52	43
1964	34	59
1965	17	38
1966	24	35
1967	6	39

HOUSING - SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED

(a) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 & 35 of the Housing Act, 1957 -

(1) Number of houses dealt with under Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957	15
(2) Number of houses the subject of closing orders	5
(3) Number of houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	7
(4) Number of houses the subject of under - takings not to use for human habitation when vacated	4
(5) Number of houses the subject of under - takings to repair	1
(6) Number of houses repaired as a result of undertakings given by owners	7
(7) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	10
(8) Number of demolition orders revoked	-

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Act 1936.

(1) Houses in which defects were remedied after the service of informal/formal notices	33
(2) Houses the subject of informal/formal action to secure connection of soil drainage systems to sewers	2
(3) Houses the subject of informal/formal action to secure conversion of P.C's into W.C.'s	3
(4) Houses the subject of formal/informal action to secure provision of food stores	3

Summary of House Repairs and Sanitary Improvements effected, 1967.

(a) Interior of Houses.

Rising dampness eliminated	19
Penetrating dampness eliminated	19
Condensation eliminated	3
Ceilings replastered	23
Walls replastered	33
Sinks provided	2
Defective windows repaired or renewed	47
Floors repaired or renewed	36
Doors repaired and made weatherproof	24
Staircases repaired	9
Provision of handrail to stairs	9
Defective skirting boards repaired or renewed	9
Fireplace or Range renewed or repaired	5
Provision of cooking facilities	-
Provision of ventilated food store	3
Ventilation to larder provided	8
Increased window area provided	3
Artificial lighting provided	2
Cold water storage tank ball valve renewed	2

(b) Exterior of houses.

Penetrating dampness eliminated	4
House roofs repaired	36
Walls repointed and/or repaired	41
Eaves gutters renewed or repaired	23
Rainwater pipes renewed or repaired	21
Rainwater tank cover renewed	4
Chimneys stacks repointed and/or repaired	26
Damp-proof course provided	3
External woodwork repaired	1
External woodwork repainted	14

(c) Drainage and Sanitation.

Front and/or rear paving to house provided	9
Defective, leaking or overflowing cesspools repaired or renewed	7
Drains/sewers cleansed from obstruction	5
Drains and sewers renewed or repaired	4
Houses provided with a satisfactory drainage system	1
Water closet and or W.C. structures repaired or renewed	9
W.C. plumbing repaired	3

(d) Miscellaneous.

Piped water supply provided to houses	3
Water service pipes repaired	1
Accumulations of refuse etc. removed	2
Offensive odours abated	8
Nuisance from insects and pests abated	7
Fuel Store provided	1

Rent Act 1957 & 1965 - Certificates of Disrepair.

Rent increases for controlled houses and the decontrol of a substantial number of larger houses should enable landlords to carry out essential repairs and maintain their property in a satisfactory condition.

The number of certificates of disrepair issued by local authorities is relatively small. This should not be regarded as indicating the general fitness of houses. It is more likely to be attributed to fear of eviction, or of court proceedings, to a lack of interest by the tenants or hesitation on the part of owners to increase the rents of houses requiring repair, than to be due to the absence of items of disrepair.

During the year under review no applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair.

SECTION 'B'

WATER SUPPLIES.

In the United Kingdom today there are very few incidences of sickness and death from waterborne agents. Water hygiene has not, because of its past success, become of lesser significance and importance, but remains a cornerstone of the preventive health service. If support is needed for this statement it is to be found in the fact that about one in six of the world's population of 3,400 million suffers annually from a waterborne disease and that in each year 5 million babies are killed by these diseases.

In the earliest days water was taken as found - plentiful or scarce, good or bad, with the standard of quality probably only its freedom from mud, taste and odour. Sickness and disease were prevalent until in the nineteenth century. With the acceptance of the germ theory of disease and the fact that water was a prime means of spreading disease, the standards of water quality were raised and greater attention was paid to the methods of water treatment and waste water disposal.

Over the years vast sums of money have been invested in water and sewerage schemes and the benefit from this investment is obvious in the wholesome potable waters now available to almost everyone in this country. In addition a great deal has been done to protect and improve the condition of rivers and tidal waters, but this task is not and never will be complete, for as society develops so too do new problems in the field of water supply and waste-water disposal.

In 1965 statutory undertakings in England and Wales supplied about 2,600 million gallons of water per day, of which two-thirds was for domestic use and one-third for industrial purpises. This was double the 1938 figure. It is estimated that by the year 2001 the combined domestic and industrial demand will rise to about 83 gallons per head per day, which allowing for the increasing population could mean a daily requirement from public mains of some 5,200 million gallons or twice the amount supplied in 1965.

Suggestions for meeting this demand include estuarial barrages, desalination projects, river abstraction schemes with or without regulating reservoirs and large scale re-use of effluents and industrial wastes.

Health considerations must govern the speed and extent at which these trends occur.

Local Water Supplies.

In our own district a public water supply is available to practically all householders throughout the area. Such a fundamental provision for the health and comfort of the community is all too often taken for granted.

Local authorities have the statutory duty to determine the sufficiency and wholesomeness of water supplies in their districts. Constant vigilance is exercised therefore to ensure that water supplies are not subject to contamination, and water sampling is frequently carried out by officers of the Public Health Department.

The undermentioned water undertakings operate in the Council's district:-

Bucks Water Board

Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

Bucks Water Board.

Reports received from the Board indicate that the water supply in the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity during the year 1967. Regular bacteriological examinations have been made of both raw and water going into supply. All waters are chlorinated before distribution.

None of the waters distributed contains fluoride above 0.1 p.p.m., and none of the waters is plumbo-solvent.

Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

Reports received from the Company also confirm that their water supplies are satisfactory both in quality and quantity. Bacteriological samples are taken at least weekly from all pumping stations, reservoirs and towers, along with others from the distribution system; chemical samples are also taken frequently.

The fluoride content is negligible, (less than .o2 p.p.m.), and the water is not plumbo-solvent.

Other Sources.

There are comparatively few houses which are not within reach of public water mains. The occupiers of some houses, however, still derive their water from wells and rainwater tanks. In certain cases individual properties are away from water mains, in other cases owner-occupiers with limited incomes are reluctant to incur the cost of a main water supply where the mains are not within a reasonable distance, whilst the occupiers of other dwellings have a prejudice in favour of their individual supplies as compared with a main water supply.

Supplying main water to houses which are isolated presents a financial problem which is often overcome by asking house-holders to make a special contribution towards the cost of extending the water mains.

Water Sampling.

(a) Private Water Supplies.

During the year 27 samples were taken by the Public Health Inspectors from private water supplies serving houses, food premises and factories.

Based on the classification suggested by the Ministry of Health for non-chlorinated piped supplies only 10 results could be considered satisfactory after bacteriological examination and/or chemical analysis.

Owners of the properties with water supplies not conforming to a satisfactory standard were requested to provide a wholesome and sufficient supply.

(b) Public Water Supplies.

During the year 10 samples were taken by the Public Health Inspectors from the public mains in the various parishes throughout the Rural District, for bacteriological examination. All proved to be satisfactory.

(c) Number of Inspections.

A total of 176 visits were made in connection with samples of private and public supplies of water, and extensions of public water mains to serve isolated groups of houses.

SECTION 'C'.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Food Poisoning.

To see food cleanly handled is pleasing to the eye but clean food is even more important for the sake of our health. Every year many cases of food poisoning are reported to the Health Department. We know that many more are not reported and, in all probability, still more are not diagnosed but are attributed to "tummy upset", "gastric flu" or the like.

Every case of food poisoning represents a failure of food hygiene for it means that the food has been contaminated in some way or another with harmful germs and then, usually, that the food has been kept in unsatisfactory conditions so that the germs have had opportunity to multiply to dangerous proportions.

Some germs have their natural home in the animals which provide some of our food. In this way meat, milk and eggs may be contaminated. Pasteurisation or sterilisation of milk abd thorough cooking of meat and eggs are necessary to deal with contamination from such sources.

Those who prepare and handle food, whether commercially or in the home are another important source of contamination. The hands can all too easily transfer germs from the human body to food and the result may occasionally be disastrous.

Everybody who handles food at any stage of its journey ought to understand the importance of personal hygiene.

Clean Food Preparation.

Alongside personal hygiene in importance comes hygienic handling of the food itself. Most food poisoning organisms are killed by thorough cooking. In the refrigerator they may survive but cannot grow to harmful proportions. In between the temperature of the oven and that of the refrigerator is the gentle warmth of the kitchen and this is the condition in which germs thrive and multiply.

If food is left in the warmth of the kitchen for several hours a few germs introduced by chance or by carelessness can easily become a harmful multitude. The danger is greater if the food having been cooked is stored overnight and then warmed before use next day.

Other important measures to prevent food poisoning include clean premises and equipment. Good premises are not however sufficient, the food handlers must play their part in the drive for cleaner, safer food, indeed it is true to say that theirs is the major role.

Food Hygiene Regulations.

In the eleven years since the introduction of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations there has been a marked improvement in the food hygiene standard of food shops and catering establishments both in regard to the condition of the premises and the food handling practices.

In progressing towards clean food much has already been done by the food trade by way of improved food quality, packaging and display, by local authorities and their officers by means of education during frequent routine inspections, and by enforcement of legislative control in the case of persistent offenders.

There is still room for improvement however, and in this connection the public can play an important part. The discriminating customer will buy in shops which are clean and bright, where the goods are attractively displayed and properly protected, and where the assistants have spotless overalls, than in shops where gloom, indifferent standards of cleanliness and untidy assistants are the order of the day. The same may be said of restaurants. The more discerning the shopping housewife is the more efficient and hygienic the shopkeeper's methods must be.

Mouldy Food.

Notwithstanding the intensified efforts of the Ministry, officials, food traders and manufacturers to improve hygiene in food premises the problem of mouldy food still persists.

Food Hygiene

Indeed the widespread practice of protecting food from contamination by the pre-wrapping and pre-packing of food by manufacturers and distributors has aggravated the problem. Undoubtedly the wrapping of foods while hot and moist readily induces mould growth, this is seen in the case of wrapped bread, which may contain as much as 36% of moisture.

No food manufacturer can afford to forget that mould spores are a natural pollutant of the atmosphere and no matter how hygienic food premises may be, unless food is packed at a high temperature, or under vacuum, it is almost certain to be contaminated by mould spores which may grow and develop into visible mould if the conditions are suitable.

The maintenance of a sound standard of hygiene in all food factories particularly bakeries is essential, as this will substantially reduce the mould spore population and lesson the risk of contamination from this source. The mould-free shelf-life of bakery goods is influenced by the number of mould spores with which they are contaminated and in general, the greater the number of mould spores which rest on a particular item the shorter will be the shelf-life.

It is unlikely that any of the moulds which enter and develop in bakery products would impair the health of an individual if the affected food was consumed. But apart from any health hazard the economics of the problem are very important. It has been estimated that the wastage from mouldy bread is as high as 1 per cent of the country's production which means that the equivalent of 50 million large loaves are lost in this way each year. Losses due to mould affected fermented goods, meat pastry lines and confectionery are also colossal.

In order to prevent food being sold out of condition the manufacturer puts a coded date of manufacture. He needs this to for his own internal stock control. It will also tell him the factory which made it and, in some cases, the machine on which the product was made. This enables any compaint which arises to be thoroughly investigated.

It is the manufacturer's responsibility to deliver the product to the shop in good condition. The responsible retailer realises that he must sell such goods as quickly as possible, particularly during warm weather. It is essential therefore for a retailer to put an identifying mark to indicate day of delivery to be able to prove which day the goods were delivered if any complaint about them should arise, as this is the date on which his responsibility commences.

The retailer should normally inspect the provisions section at the start of the day and determine that everything is coded with the shop code, that everything on sale is within the shop code life and that the display is so arranged that in self service conditions the earlier delivery will be picked up first by the shopper.

Despite precautions which are and can be taken, each month of the year has its crop of mouldy food cases.

Foreign Matter and Mould in Food.

Commodity	Foreign Matter in Food		Mouldy Food
	Number		
	Home produced food	Imported Food	Number
Milk	4	-	-
Bread	2	-	1
Canned Meat	-	2	1
Cooked Meat	-	-	2
Meat Pies	-	2	-
Fish	2	-	-
Vegetables	1	-	-
Confectionery	1	-	2
Other Food	3	-	3
Totals	13	4	9

Number of prosecutions under Section 2 - 3

Total amount of Fines and Costs imposed - £85.5.0.

Milk & Dairies.

Administration of the law relating generally to the nation's milk supply has always been a large and important part of the duties of local authorities, and although by the coming into operation, on the 1st of October, 1949, legislation whereby the responsibility for the process and practice of the production of milk, i.e. by the dairy farmer at the dairy farm, was transferred from local authorities to the Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries, the vast business of the distribution of milk, i.e. from the producer to the consumer, remains the responsibility of local authorities.

A major step towards ensuring the safety of the nation's milk supply was in 1962 when a programme was completed and the whole of England and Wales became a "specified area". This means that all milk sold by retail for human consumption must be sold as specially designated milk, viz. Pasteurised, Sterilised or Untreated. Another heat treatment process was given recognition in 1965, when it became legal to sell ultra-high temperature treated milk.

Despite these safety measures there are still some diseases which can be transmitted to man from milk which has not been heat-treated. Brucella organisms are widespread throughout the dairy herds of the country and these organisms can infect man and cause undulant fever. The incidence of brucella infection in man is not precisely known. One of the main reasons for this is that neither the disease in man nor contagious abortion in cattle is made notifiable.

For something like 20 years now attempts have been made to control the disease. In 1944 the Ministry introduced the calf vaccination scheme incorporating the use of Strain 19. This continued to May 1962 when in order to encourage its use the vaccination became free.

The Ministry have now introduced their main brucellosis eradication scheme. This however is being approached as a grading-up exercise rather than attempting immediate eradication, for the very good reason that the latter would involve disposing of about 750,000 cattle at a cost in compensation of £50 million. Even if the financial burden was acceptable, the disruption this would cause to the farming industry would not be.

Thus it was decided to establish a brucellosis-free register from which replacement would be supplied and so accelerating the time when eradication would prove feasible.

Whilst awaiting eradication of the cattle disease, two measures which commend themselves are the extension of pasteurization to all milk and secondly the compulsory notification of the human disease.

Registration of Food Premises. Section 16, Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

Prepared Foods.

27 premises are registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale.

Ice-cream.

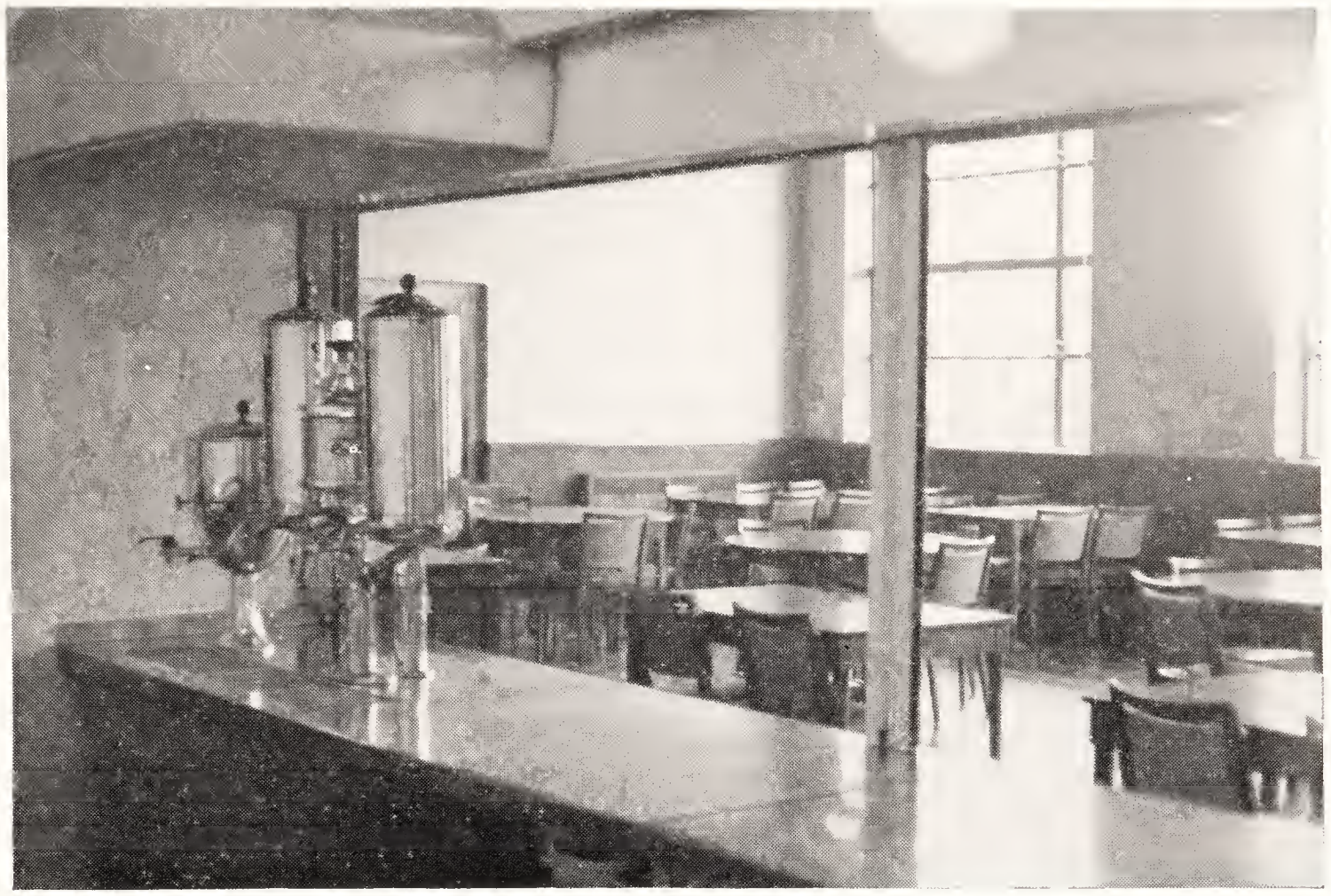
151 premises are registered under the above Act, two for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream, and 149 premises for the storage and sale of ice-cream.

One manufacturer sells ice-cream on a large scale using from 15 to 18 vehicles. Sterilised canned ice-cream mix is used in special "soft ice-cream" machines in the vans. The other manufacturer has a "soft ice-cream" machine in his shop.

The soft ice-cream vans operate from new premises which are registered under the Act. Regular visits are made and samples taken by the Public Health Inspectors from the vehicles during the morning just before the vans start their round.

The samples were generally placed in Grades 1 or 2, which is a satisfactory result, and indicates that the samples were generally satisfactory.

Clean Catering



Bacteriological Examination of Ice-cream by Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

	Mobile Vans				Premises			
Test Grade	1	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Soft ice-cream	35	10	5	3	1	1	3	2
Other ice-cream	-	-	-	-	7	6	2	-
Total number of all samples..... 75								

Where samples were placed in Grade 3 and 4, immediate checks were made on the "method", machines or plant concerned and then further samples taken which resulted in a satisfactory improvement to Grade 1 or 2.

Bacteriological Examination of Other Foods.

25 samples of other foods were taken for bacteriological examination and included samples of:-

Cream - pasteurised and sterilised.
Chicken offal
Frozen chicken legs
Chicken breast fillets
Frozen whole chicken
Whole chicken before freezing
Beast carcases
Sheep carcases

22 swabs were taken for bacteriological examination from all types of food and equipment in food shops, factories and slaughterhouses.

After advising the managers concerned re the necessity for proper detergent/sterilant routines for slicing machines, knives and surfaces, and a clean hands routine after blowing the nose or visiting the W.C., the resultant check swabs proved to be negative.

The swabs sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratory included swabs taken from chickens during all stages of eviseration, washing, chilling, packing and freezing, and from beast and sheep carcases, and the remaining swabs were taken from food equipment such as slicers, knives, cheese boards, meat band saws and scales.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

Details relating to food premises subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations are as follows:-

Premises	No. of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16.	No. of premises to which Reg. 19 applies.	No. of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Bakehouses	14	14	14
Butchers	19	21	21
Cafes & Canteens	35	40	40
Dairies & Milk Distributors	7	7	7
Fish fryers & Fishmongers	4	4	4
General food shops	123	133	133
Greengrocers	14	16	16
Public House/ Hotels	81	81	81
Totals	297	316	316

During the year 656 visits were made to the two poultry packing stations, one of which is in full time production, averaging 50,000 birds per week; 79 visits were made to bakehouses and baker and confectioner's shops, 79 to butcher's shops, 15 to fried fish shops and fishmongers, 70 to greengrocers, 89 to cafe, hotel, factory canteen and transport cafe kitchens, 218 to general grocers, 87 to licensed premises and clubs, and 96 to other food preparing premises, 166 visits were made to ice-cream premises and vehicles.

30 visits were also made to food hawkers, 5 to market stalls, 135 to food shops in connection with the inspection of unsound foods, 25 to dairies and milk distributors, 1,269 visits re inspections of meat and slaughterhouses making a total of 2,374 visits to food premises during the year.

Food Hygiene - Details of Notices served

	Number	
	Offences	Convictions
1. Part II. General requirements.....	28	Nil
2. Part III. Requirements relating to persons engaged in the handling of food..	10	Nil
3. Part IV. Requirements relating to food premises..	172	Nil
Totals.	210	Nil

Food Hygiene (Markets, Stall & Delivery Vehicles), Regulations, 1966.

	Number	
	Offences	Convictions
1. Part II. General requirements.....	3	Nil
2. Part III. Requirements relating to food handlers and the handling of food.....	3	Nil
3. Part IV. Requirements relating to markets and stalls and delivery vehicles.....	4	Nil
Totals.	10	Nil

List of Improvements and/or Unsatisfactory conditions remedied in food premises during 1967.

Food premises cleansed and/or redecorated.....	15
Food premises repaired (floors, walls, ceilings, W.C's and windows).....	23
Wash-basins provided.....	3
Nail brushes provided.....	4
Sinks provided.....	1
Provisions of constant hot and cold water supply..	4
Provision of intervening ventilated space between W.C. and foodroom.....	2
Sanitary accommodation otherwise improved or repaired.....	8
Refuse receptacles provided.....	3
Rodent infestation treated.....	56
Food exposed to contamination removed.....	1
"Wash-hands" notices displayed on request.....	4
"No Smoking" notices displayed on request.....	1
Proper facilities for hanging outdoor clothing provided.....	2
Impervious surfaces provided to worktops and counters.....	3
First aid kit provided.....	4
Unwrapped foods placed behind glass and not exposed to contamination from customers.....	1
Artificial lighting provided.....	6
Food equipment cleansed.....	2
Open food raised not less than 18" above ground...	1

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958. The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958.

Inspections have been regularly carried out at each of the three private slaughterhouses in the district regarding the cleanliness and repair of the premises and the equipment.

No pathogenic organisms have been found during 1967 from sewer swabs taken from the slaughter-houses and lairage drains, or from bacteriological swabs taken from knives, saw blades, chopper blades, inspection and gut room tables.

The occupiers of the slaughterhouses have been encouraged to provide water pressure spray guns which greatly assist in daily cleansing of walls and floor etc., and they have been using the spray guns for washing down beast carcases now, for some 4 years without any adverse comments forthcoming from the trade.

Wiping cloths were still used for sheep carcases however, and buckets of hot water containing D.Q. 1, quaternary ammonium non-tasting compounds, are used in conjunction with them in an effort to prevent cross infection.

When the tradional wiping cloth is legally banished in November 1968 it would appear that individual paper "wiping cloths" will be the answer to the problem of producing a clean and dry sheep carcase in small slaughter-houses not equipped with "Coldair blast" cooling rooms.

Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.

These Acts and Regulations are for the purpose of preventing cruelty and ensuring that no animals shall be slaughtered in a slaughterhouse except by a person licensed by the local authority.

The licences of 4 slaughtermen were renewed during the year.

Inspections were made daily at each of the two larger slaughterhouses, and as required at the small slaughterhouse, under the above Acts and Regulation. Particular attention was paid to the provision of adequate water supplies and bedding etc., in the lairages. Animals were generally not kept long enough in the lairages to require feeding as required by the Prevention of Cruelty Regulations.

Meat Hygiene and Inspection Services.

The following table indicates the number and different classes of animals slaughtered and inspected and the number of animals affected with:-

(a) tuberculosis

(b) cysticercosis bovis

(c) diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis bovis.

The technique of meat inspection used is in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, and 100 per cent meat inspection was maintained.

Tuberculosis was absent in cattle, but 1% of the total number of pigs inspected were found to have either Bovine or Avian Tuberculosis lesions, or lesions of a bacillary necrotic nature or the corynebacterium equi type, in the submaxilliary nodes of the head.

Unfortunately, the time necessary to establish the true nature of the lesions, microscopically and bacteriologically at the Laboratory is too long to be of other than professional interest and it is the practice to condemn the pig's head, and examine the rest of the carcase and organs in detail before passing them as fit for food.

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Meat Inspection

Ante-mortem inspection and control of lairage conditions.

Post-mortem inspection and control of slaughterhouse hygiene

The incidence of diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis in cattle excluding cows, sheep and lambs has risen to 32.6% and 9.7% respectively from 28.4% and 4.8% and the figure for pigs has risen to 5.5% affected. The latter representing mainly livers affected with Ascaris Lumbricoides and to a lesser extent lungs affected with congestion, pleurisy and/or pneumonia.

The records show that out of the total of 2,036 beasts, sheep and lambs and pigs affected by diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis, the major proportion of those animals were affected in the liver by either Fasciola hepatica in the case of the beasts and sheep, 787 and 820 respectively, or the round worm Ascaris Lumbricoides in the case of pigs, in which 182 livers were affected.

Cysticercosis bovis was found in 36 cattle excluding cows and none in cows. The technique of inspections used for cysticercus bovis is as recommended in the Practice Notes on the subject, by the Association of Public Health Inspectors.

Causes of condemnation other than Tuberculosis and cysticercosis bovis include:-

Abscesses; actinomycosis; actinobacillosis; general parasitical condition of livers and lungs, (e.g. fascioliasis, T.echinococcus, T.marginata, muellerius capillaris, ascaris lumbricoides), cirrhosis, telangiectasis; pericarditis; peritonitis; pneumonia; pleurisy; bruising; pathological emaciation; septicaemia; pyaemia; jaundice; metritis; mastitis; n.necrosis; septic omphalophlebitis; nephritis; melanosis, oedema and carcinoma.

Unsound Food Surrendered or Condemned.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Lbs.
1. Offal at Slaughterhouses	5	16	20
2. Carcase meat at Slaughterhouse	2	6	82
3. Meat at Retail Shops			58
4. Canned Meats.....			99
5. Other Foods.....	3	3	45
Total.....	11	7	80

Poultry Hygiene and Inspection Services.

It is estimated that the number of broiler chickens dealt with alone during the year under review is over 200 millions which is eight times the number processed ten years ago.

These figures indicate that poultry, which used to be regarded by the average housewife as a luxury item to be reserved for special occasions, has now become an important article of diet in the Nation's food supply because of its comparitive cheapness and time-saving convenience to the housewife. The industry, therefore, merits far greater attention by the public health inspector than formerly, both with regard to the super-vision of standards of hygiene during processing and the inspection of the final product as to its fitness for human consumption.

There are two poultry processing premises within the district and a system of inspection of the poultry slaughtered in these premises was initiated in accordance with the Ministry of Health's recommendation. The number of birds killed and the number condemned as unfit for human consumption are as follows:-

Broilers:-

Number killed.....	2,320,807
Number condemned.....	16,546
Weight of broilers condemned..	46,973 lbs.

Turkeys:-

Number killed.....	96,747
Number condemned.....	306
Weight of turkeys condemned...	5,155 lbs.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2,806	100	197	8,551	4,876
Number not inspected	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.					
Whole carcases condemned.....	1	5	2	5	4
Part carcases or organ condemned....	915	15	2	824	267
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.....	32.6%	20%	2%	9.7%	5.5%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Part carcases or organ condemned...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	49
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1%
Cysticercosis.					
Part carcase or organ condemned....	36	Nil	Nil		
Carcases refrigerated.....	11	Nil	Nil		
Generalised and totally condemned..	Nil	Nil	Nil		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with cysticerci.....	1.3%	Nil	Nil		

SECTION 'D'

CLEAN AIR.

The Wycombe Rural District Council is a member of the National Society for Clean Air.

The Society was founded in 1899. It did valuable work during the early years and made it understood that "Clean Air" was not the impractical fad of a few cranks. In 1959 the Society celebrated its Diamond Jubilee.

The Clean Air Conference.

A major event during the year was the Clean Air Conference held in Blackpool from 17th to 20th of October, 1967. 800 delegates, including many from overseas countries, attended and 10 papers were presented. The exhibition held in conjunction with the Conference, was opened by the Minister of State, Ministry of Transport and consisted of exhibits from the various fuel industries, incinerator and chimney constructors, technology, boilers and domestic heating systems and air pollution information.

Britain's Achievement.

Britain has done most of the pioneering work in Smoke Abatement, and the Clean Air Act 1956 is one of the great social milestones. Yet the National Society says that while the Act has been a success, progress towards clean air has been slower than expected. However in the eleven years since the Act became law, progress has been much quicker than with other environmental problems, which took much longer to solve, such as the provision of the water carriage system of sewage disposal, clean food, water and milk. There still remains the problems of river pollution, slum clearance especially in the large cities, noise, litter, pesticides, herbicides, radiation and the control of the motor vehicle.

Domestic Pollution.

The most serious source of air pollution now remaining is the domestic fire burning raw coal and emitting smoke at low level. Nationally, we are reluctant to give up the open coal fire in favour of cleaner smokeless fuels, or piped or wired fuels.

We are also reluctant to meet the cost of cleaning-up the air. The total cost, however, is only a fraction of the waste involved in allowing pollution to continue, and a nation that moves from one economic crisis to the next ought to be hesitant about wasting at least £300 millions a year.

National Survey of Air Pollution.

The national survey of smoke and sulphur dioxide is unique in that nowhere else are so many measurements of air pollution concentrations made in such a wide variety of districts. The results show how pollution by smoke is at its worst in areas of old-fashioned high-density housing, and decreases to tolerable concentrations in low-density modern housing on the periphery of a town. They also show how the position is very much worse in the north where so much more coal is burnt per head of population. The pattern of distribution of pollution throughout the various types of district of a town have enabled valuable conclusions to be drawn on how towns can be planned, during re-development schemes and also the new towns of the future.

Pollution in the Countryside.

The countryside outside towns is generally far less polluted, but not pollution-free. Apart from the contribution of nearby small villages there is a measurable amount of contamination of country air from built-up and industrial areas, especially under certain weather conditions. Variation in the concentration of smoke and sulphur dioxide with the distance downwind of a town has been measured using directional samplers which differentiate between air from the town and that blowing from other directions.

Air Pollution from Motor Traffic.

The Laboratory is making measurements of carbon monoxide in streets of a number of cities throughout Great Britain at the request of the Ministry of Transport with the co-operation of the local authorities and other organizations. It is well known that under favourable conditions (e.g. in congested traffic in narrow streets with high buildings on each side, or in road tunnels) carbon monoxide may occasionally accumulate to such a degree as to cause concern regarding its effect on health, on alertness and on the accuracy of driving.

Clean Air

Modernisation of Plant
Oil-Fired Boilers

Modernisation of Plant
– utilising factory wood waste as main fuel

In the opinion of the Laboratory, abatement measures cannot be enacted until the extent of the danger has been defined. The present measurements are intended to give this information.

In spite of the long delay, the Society is now urging that action should be taken soon to reduce pollution from petrol motor vehicles.

For petrol engines the Society Report regards modified carburettors and fuel injection systems as offering the most hope for reductions in carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons. Exhaust after-burners and catalysts are unlikely to provide the bext solution. The way is now open for a standard European method of testing carbon monoxide emission and it is urged that the Ministry of Transport should fix limits for its content in exhausts. It is also suggested that exhaust gas analysis and carburettor adjustments should be included in annual car tests.

Industry.

Considerable sums have been, and are being spent on plant improvement and industry is generally recognising its obligations to reduce air pollution. Prevention of offences under the Clean Air Act, 1956, calls for correct equipment, maintenance and operation of plant, the use of mechanical stoking wherever possible, and the training and certification of boiler stokers, together with proper instrumentation, throughout the whole of the plant and processing machinery.

Control Measures in the Wycombe Rural District.

The district has a population of approximately 65,000, and has several densely populated urban areas, which are growing rapidly more urban in character as the housing estates go up.

The district has 195 registered factories including a considerable number of boiler plants, furnaces, furniture wood waste incinerators, saw mills, five large paper and board mills and two poultry packing plants.

Control measures which the Council are at present operating in order to prevent or alleviate atmospheric pollution include:-

(1) Action where necessary under the Dark Smoke "Permitted Periods" Regulations, against emissions of dark smoke, and securing the minimum emissions of grit and dust, with special reference to industrial boiler plants, furnaces and incinerators.

(2) Action to abate smoke nuisances, (e.g. burning of industrial or garden refuse, use of incinerators and wood refuse burning plant at furniture factories etc.)

(3) Ensuring that new industrial furnaces are not installed unless they are capable so far as is practicable of being operated without emitting smoke.

(4) Regulating the height of chimneys in connection with the erection or extension of industrial buildings, or new boiler plants in existing buildings.

(5) Implementing byelaws which require all new buildings to be equipped with smoke-less fuel appliances.

(6) One smoke control order made jointly by the Council and a neighbouring local authority is operative in connection with a new housing estate, part of which is in the Council's district, and part in the area of the neighbouring authority.

225 inspections with regard to smoke observations, grit observations, boiler plant inspections, smoke nuisances, complaints and interviews were made under the provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956. During these observations and inspections, 2 contraventions of the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods), Regulations, 1958, were recorded. Modernisation of the offending boiler plant has now been completed by the Management of the company concerned.

SECTION 'E'

SANITATION.

Of the 4,500 million gallons of water used for domestic and industrial purposes it has been estimated that 2,500 million gallons are discharged to rivers. While some rivers are far from clean few, if any, now give rise to public nuisance, and most are much cleaner than they were before river boards were formed.

The disposal of liquid wastes has been the subject of increasingly restrictive legislation designed primarily for protecting the general condition of receiving waters - only indirectly has this reduced the potential health hazards of liquid wastes. Under present laws and practice, however, many aspects of handling waste-waters are designed to protect the health of the public.

Domestic sewages will always contain disease - producing micro-organisms and, since treatment plants are not designed to remove or destroy all of these, some will always be present in the effluents. Todate, these effluents, when sufficiently diluted with natural water, have not created health problems for the water industry. But today with the lower dilutions afforded to sewage effluents, there is a growing feeling that the entero-viruses in sewage effluents may bring about changes in reasons for, and nature of, waste treatment plants.

Wastes discharged to tidal waters are also subject to controls which, in part, are specifically designed to protect the health of the public. In coastal areas, greater attention is being paid to the use of long off-shore outfalls so as to minimise these health hazards.

Radioactive wastes fall into a special category and are covered by separate legislation.

While the sewerage and sewage disposal arrangements of this country are good, it should not be assumed that there is no room for improvement. The changing patterns of industrial processes and the constant introduction of new chemicals for industrial or domestic purposes, suggests that wastes will always contain chemicals that are potentially harmful to man. In recent years there has been a growing demand for waste disposal to be organised on a regional basis.

The advocates of this policy claim that there would be more efficient management of sewerage systems, better use of the scientific and technological personnel in the "waste industry", greater returns on the investments made in disposal systems since more economic plant and or processes could be provided for regional schemes, and finally, it would be easier to implement new ideas on the subject of water management involving those in the water and waste-water industries and in water resources.

In our own district cesspools and septic tanks have been eliminated on a large scale in recent years due to the implementation of main drainage schemes in the more populated parts of the district. Areas remaining to be sewered include Lacey Green, Loosley Row, parts of Kimble, Ellesborough and parts of Bledlow Parish, Bledlow Ridge and Medmenham.

Lack of main drainage facilities perpetuate the problems of unsatisfactory drainage and sanitary accommodation and retards the work of improving our older homes. It is to be hoped therefore that main drainage schemes for the unsewered parts of the district will be carried out as quickly as possible.

In cases where owners have not connected their properties to the sewers the Public Health Inspectors have been engaged on checking the drainage systems, and where found to be defective or insufficient appropriate action has been taken to enforce the connection of the soil drains to the sewers and to secure the conversion of earth closets into water closets where necessary.

Hygiene on Highways.

Publicity by press, radio and television has frequently been given on the inadequacy of sanitary facilities and the generally unsatisfactory state of lay-bys and highway verges along the main roads of Britain.

So far, however, little has been done to improve matters. Is there a serious health problem or it is an aesthetic problem.? A potential public health risk certainly exists, particularly at peak holiday periods in many parts of the country.

The case for improved facilities on our highways is being increasingly advocated and it would appear that some overall plan of action is now required to ensure that facilities are provided in the right places and at regular intervals along our main roads. The demand is there and it is estimated that lay-by lavatories in Oxfordshire and Somerset, for example are coping with as many as 10,000 people a week.

SECTION 'F

PEST INFESTATION CONTROL.

At the present time it is estimated that rats and mice cause total damage throughout Europe to the extent of £2,000 million per year. In this country the loss is in the region of £20 million per year. The total world loss of stored cereals and rice, for which rats in the main are responsible, is estimated to be 33 million tons per year. At the same time, more than 20 per cent of the crops planted by man every year is eaten or spoiled by rodents and insects before harvest. Rats are also associated with the spread of foot and mouth disease. Clearly against this background the rat population must be controlled and if possible eliminated.

The extermination of rats is certainly one of the less glamorous sides and perhaps one of the least publicised sides to the work of public health departments.

One of the main chemicals used throughout the world as a rodenticide - warfarin - was first introduced into Britain some 15 or 16 years ago. Since its use there have been reported cases of warfarin resistance in a mainly rural area just outside Scotland, and more recently there have been cases in Montgomery and Shropshire on the Welsh border and the smaller adjoining area at Ludlow. Counter measures to combat the spread of resistant rats into other areas included establishing a three mile wide barrier around the affected areas and the use of the acute poison, zinc phosphide.

A new poison known as coumatralyl has recently been given Ministry approval for use in this country against warfarin resistant rats and mice. With the use of long established poisons such as zinc phosphide, fluoracetamide, for the control of rats in sewers, warfarin and now the coumarin compounds, we should be able to reduce rodent infestations to an absolute minimum.

Pest control is a most important subject and this is reflected in the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, which clearly defines the duties of owners and occupiers of premises and local authorities in the work of pest extermination.

Rodent control is a community responsibility and in this connection occupiers of premises can play an important part by reporting immediately any infestation which occurs in order that action may be promptly taken.

Rodent Control Services.

The Council's rodent control service is provided free to domestic premises but a charge is made for work done on all business premises and farms. The total income from this Rodent Control Service amounted to £1,445 for the financial year, most of which is obtained through the operation of the Department's annual contract scheme.

Work Carried Out.

As a result of survey and notification by occupiers of infested premises, extermination of rodents has been carried out at dwelling houses, factory premises, food premises, refuse tips etc. Details relating to the work are submitted in the table on Page 53.

Other Pests.

Complaints of pests other than rodents were received and treatments given resulted in the destruction of 221 wasps nests. Harassed residents were very appreciative of the service given.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS	Type of Property: Non-Agricultural	Type of Property: Agricultural
1. Number of Properties in district	20,312	570
2. (a)Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	760	110
(b)Number infested by :-		
(i) Rats	557	99
(ii) Mice	139	64
3. (a)Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	7,290	323
(b)Number infested by :-		
(i) Rats	152	289
(ii) Mice	73	139
SEWERS		
4. No. of sewers infested by rats during the year	NIL	

SECTION 'G'

FACTORIES, OFFICES AND SHOPS.

Factories Act, 1961.

The factory premises registered with the Council number 195.

The tables submitted herewith contain statistical information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service, and include the work of the Public Health Inspector in relation to factory administration as it concerns the local authority.

Matters claiming attention include cleanliness, ventilation, lighting and sanitary accommodation. A number of factories have canteens and are therfore subject to the provisions of the Food & Drugs Act 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1961, and inspections are carried out concurrently.

Homework.

A provision of the Factories Act 1961 requires firms employing outworkers to furnish to the local authority twice yearly lisis giving the names and addresses of persons carrying out specified work connected with the business of the factory at premises outside the factory.

Homes of the outworkers should conform to a satisfactory standard of environmental hygiene.

The lists submitted to the Council showed that outworkers were principally employed on the making and altering of wearing apparel.

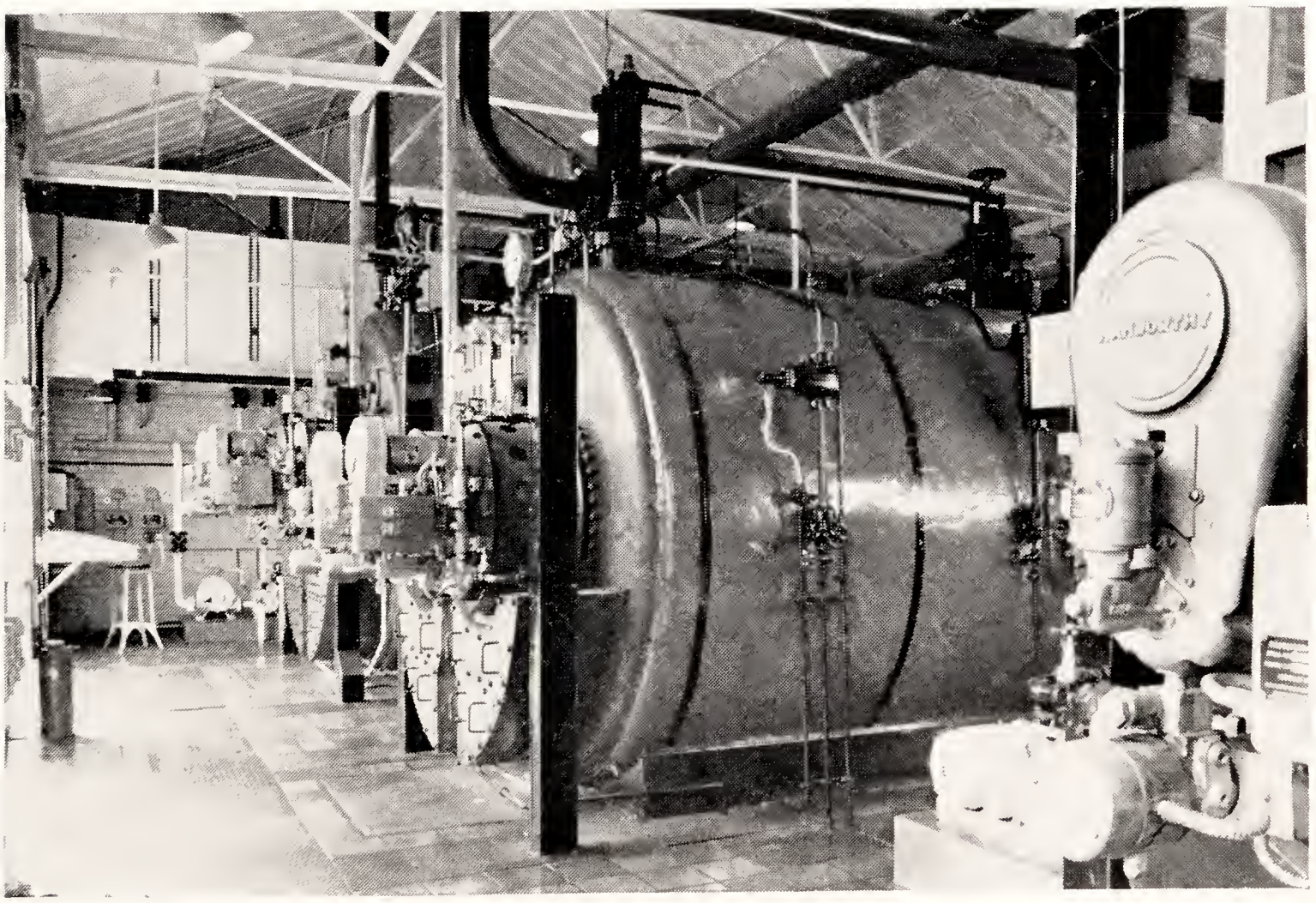
1. Inspections made for provisions as to Health

Factories.

Premises	No. of Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.....	3	5	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities.....	192	103	12	Nil
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (ex outworkers Premises).....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	195	108	12	Nil

Factories

Factory in the Rural District.



A Modern Factory Boiler Plant

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Factories.

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			Referred		
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of Cleanliness.....	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient...	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective....	7	6	Nil	3	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes...	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outworkers)....	6	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	18	15	Nil	3	Nil

FACTORY OUTWORKERS.

Sections 133 and 134, Factories Act, 1961.

	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 133 (1) (c)	No. of Cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel making etc.....	49	-	-	-	-	-
Household Linen....	1	-	-	-	-	-
Artificial flowers..	1	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture & Upholstery....	4	-	-	-	-	-
Jewellery	1	-	-	-	-	-
Totals..	56	-	-	-	-	-

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

This Act enabled regulations to be made for securing the health, safety and welfare of people, estimated to number eight million, who are employed in one million shops, offices and railway premises.

Provision is made for the registration of premises and matters relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, lighting, sanitary convenience, washing facilities, drinking water, accommodation for clothing, facilities for sitting and eating. Safety requirements in connection with floors, stairs, steps, passage and gangways; fencing of dangerous machinery, stringent fire precautions and notification of accidents.

Chief Public Health Inspector's Annual Report to the Ministry of Labour.

Registration and Inspection.

Of the 298 premises registered during the year, 78 premises received a general inspection during 1967, which together with the 359 general inspections made since the commencement of the Act in 1964, brings the total to 437.

The total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises since the commencement of the Act is now 1,410, including 320 visits of all kinds during 1967.

- TABLE A -

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

	Number of Premises registered during the year.	Total number of registered premises at end of year.	Number of registered premises receiving inspection during the year.
Offices.....	9	77	11
Retail Shops	11	187	56
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses..	2	5	2
Catering establishments open to the public and canteens....	3	26	8
Fuel storage Depots.....	-	3	1
Totals	25	298	78

- TABLE B -

Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises.....	320

Offices and Shops

Modern office block in the Rural District.

- TABLE C -

Analysis of Persons employed in registered premises by workplace

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed.
Offices	787
Retail Shops	682
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	57
Catering Establishments open to the Public	136
Canteens	71
Fuel Storage Depots	14
Totals	1,747
Total Males	700
Total Females	1,047

- TABLE D -

Exemptions.

Exemption	Number
Part 1. Space(sec.5(2))	Nil
Part 2. Temperature (Sec. 6)	Nil
Part 3. Sanitary Conveniences(Sec.9)	Nil
Part 4. Washing Conveniences(Sec.10)	Nil

- Table E -

Prosecutions

No. of prosecutions	Nil

- TABLE F -

Analysis of Contraventions.

Section	Number of Contraventions found:-	
4	Cleanliness	-
5	Overcrowding	-
6	Temperature	18
7	Ventilation	-
8	Lighting	7
9	Sanitary Conveniences	7
10	Washing Facilities	4
11	Supply of Drinking Water	-
12	Clothing Accommodation	2
13	Sitting Facilities	-
14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	1
15	Eating Facilities	-
16	Floors, passages and stairs	8
17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	2
18	Protection of young persons working at dangerous machinery	-
19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	-
23	Prohibition of heavy work	-
24	First Aid & General Provisions	15
Reg. 3	Information for Employees Reg. 1965	30
	Total	94

Offices and Shops

Examples of good office lighting.

Machine room segregated from other offices.

- TABLE G -

Reported Accidents.

Workplace	Number Reported	Total No. Investigated.	Action Recommended		
			Prosecution	Formal Warning	Informal Advice
Offices.....	-	-	-	-	-
Retail Shops...	3	3	-	-	3
Wholesale Shops Warehouses....	-	-	-	-	-
Catering Establishments open to public and canteens.....	-	-	-	-	-
Fuel Storage Depots.....	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.....	3	3	-	-	3

- Table H -

Analysis of Reported Accidents.

	Offices	Retail Shops
Falls of persons.....	-	1
Use of hand tools.....	-	1
Handling Goods.....	-	1
Totals.....	-	3

All three accidents, upon investigation, were found to be of a minor character.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951, forbids the use of filling materials to which the Act applies for such purposes as upholstery and the stuffing of bedding, toys and baby carriages except on premises registered by a local authority. There are 20 premises registered under the Act, in the Rural District.

Standards of cleanliness of filling materials are given by regulations and penalties are prescribed for using unclean materials.

During the year 8 samples of filling materials were collected and submitted to the prescribed analyst for examination of cleanliness. 6 samples were found to conform to the prescribed standard.

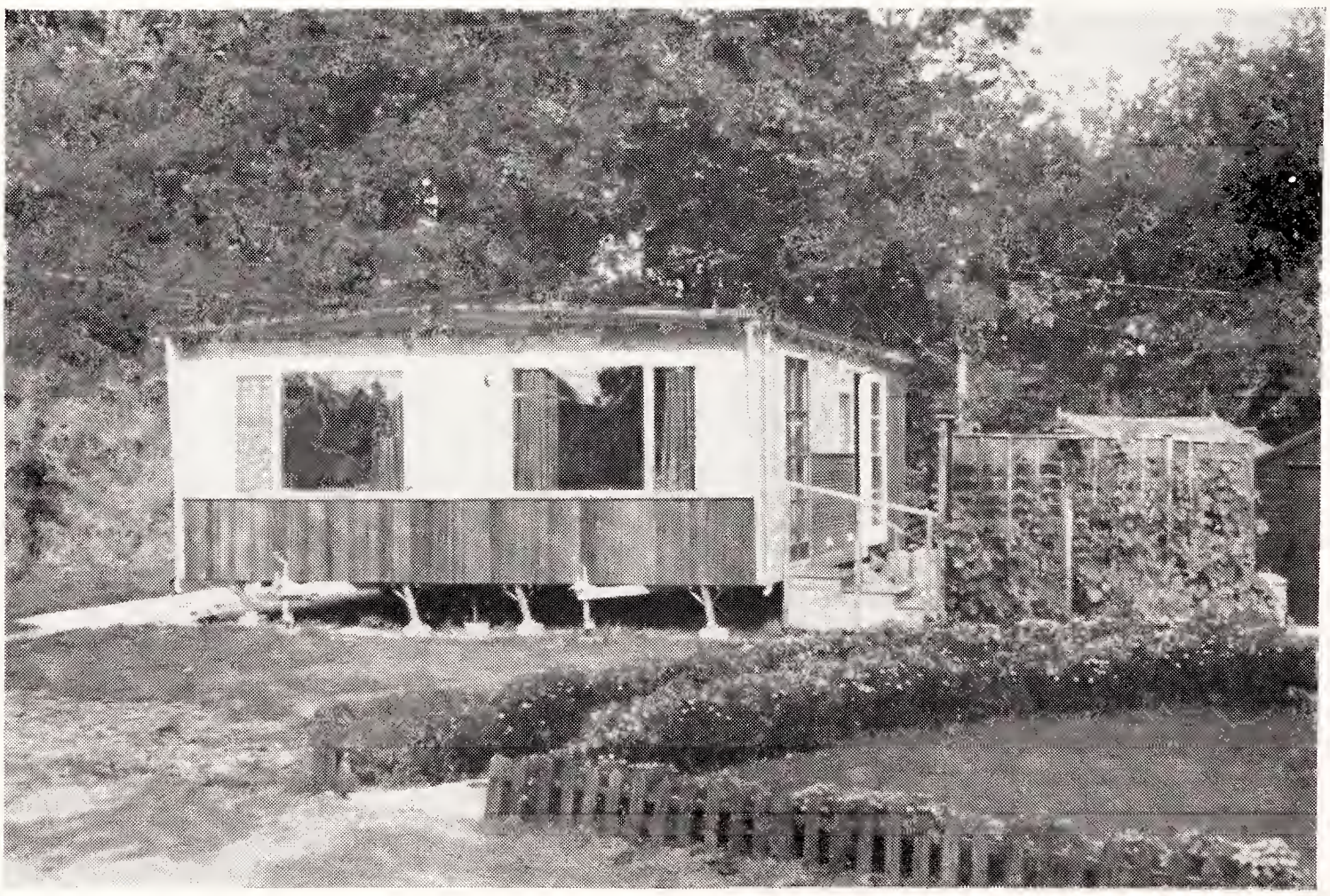
Public Health Inspections of registered premises totalled 18 during the year and 6 visits were made to retail shops selling stuffed toys.

2 samples of stuffed toys failed to meet the Rag Flock & Other Filling Materials Regulations, 1961, in respect of:-

1. Wood wool filling of imported teddy bear.
2. Rag flock filling of imported golliwog.

The importers of the toys were informed through the Local Authority in whose district their premises were situated. It was found that there were no further supplies of the toys available, at the im-
porter's premises.

Private Caravan Parks



SECTION 'H'

MISCELLANEOUS.

Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960

This Act, designed to strengthen the powers of local authorities and planning authorities to control the siting of caravans, and to ensure that caravan sites are properly equipped and run, necessitated an initial survey of all caravan sites in the district.

When planning permissionsare given site licences have to be issued by the Public Health Department and conditions prescribed in order to regulate the sites and secure satisfactory conditions. My inspectors have been extensively engaged in this work and during the year 1967, 561 inspections and re-inspections were made to caravan sites.

As stated in previous reports it is said that caravan sites are an admission of failure to build houses or make available houses at prices which the people can afford. Most of the people living in caravans would prefer to be in houses.

However it is estimated that there are over 320,000 caravans of all types now in use in Britain. Of these, 60,000 are tourers, 160,000 are "static" holiday caravans, and over 100,000 are used as permanent residential homes.

The modern residential caravan is from 30 feet to 50 feet long and 9ft.6 ins wide as a single or double unit or up to approximately 36 ft by 19 ft. in two units fastened side by side. Once on the caravan park they usually become properly sited fixtures, connected to soil drainage, water and electricity.

On the nine larger private caravan sites throughout the Wycombe Rural District each caravan park has individual connections readily available for the fitting of internal waterclosets, water supply and electricity.

Caravans.

	Privately owned sites	
	Residential	Holiday
Number of licences issued during 1967	24	-
Number of site licences operating as at 31st December, 1967:-		
(a) Individual.....	78	1
(b) Multiple (more than 3).	20	1
Total number of caravans.....	279	301
Number of prosecutions - Section 1. (i.e. unauthorised sites).....	Nil	Nil
Number of appeals to courts against site licence conditions.....	Nil	Nil
In respect of separate licence conditions the number of:-		
(a) Variations.....	Nil	Nil
(b) Cancellations.....	Nil	Nil
Number of contraventions - Section 9 (i.e. breaches of licence conditions).....	5	Nil
Number: (a) remedied informally.	4	-
(b) prosecutions.....	Nil	-
(c) convictions.....	Nil	
Number of sites made subject to Section 20 during the year ended 31st December, 1967. (termination of use of existing site).....	Nil	Nil
Number of sites made subject to conditions for reducing caravans during the year ended 31st of December, 1967.....	Nil	Nil

Agriculture, (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

Certain provisions of this Act require local authorities to determine the sufficiency of sanitary conveniences for the use of workers on agricultural units, and by notice secure additional sanitary accommodation where there is inadequate provision.

During the year 1967 re-inspections of agricultural units continued in order to ensure that the provisions of the Act were being complied with.

Hairdressers.

The Council have adopted Section 72 of the Buckinghamshire County Council which provides for the registration of hair-dressers and barbers. Section 77 of the Public Health Act, 1961, makes similar provision for registration.

The Council have made byelaws under the aforementioned Act for the purpose of securing cleanliness of the premises, instruments, towels, materials and equipment together with the cleanliness of persons employed on the premises in regard to both themselves and their clothing.

At the end of the year there were 39 premises registered for the carrying on of the business of hairdressing and 19 visits were paid to these premises with a view to securing compliance with your Council's Byelaws. Premises and methods were generally satisfactory.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964.

There are 20 premises within the rural district where the business of dealing in scrap metals is transacted and the premises are registered in accordance with Section 1 of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964. Dealers are required to keep records in relation to the articles they purchase.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963.

This Act came into operation on the 1st January, 1964, and prohibits the keeping of a boarding establishment for animals (dogs and cats), except under the authority of a licence granted by the local authority.

In determining whether to grant a licence for the keeping of a boarding establishment a local authority shall have regard to the need for securing satisfactory accommodation for the animals as respects construction, size of quarters, exercising facilities, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness; adequate provision for food, drink and bedding material; precautions to prevent spread of infectious diseases and the protection of animals in case of fire.

All animal boarding establishments in this district have again been inspected and the provisions of the Act made known to them.

There are 12 Animal Boarding Establishments registered and 44 inspections have been made during the year.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

This Act regulates the sale of pet animals making provision for the licensing of pet animal shops and imposing conditions for the animals to be accommodated and cared for in a satisfactory manner.

One shop was licensed during the year under review, and 11 visits have been made during the year.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations, 1953.

This Act makes it an offence to sell or expose for sale any heating appliance not fitted with a suitable guard.

No contraventions of the Act have been observed.

Licensing of Game Dealers.

The Council granted 5 licences authorising dealers to buy and sell game.

Infectious Diseases.

123 visits have been made in connection with cases of notifiable diseases. Relevant information with regard to the history of the cases was obtained and recorded and contacts checked. Similarly 21 visits were made concerning food poisoning investigations.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

Nuisance from noise is an every day experience - aircraft, factory machines, electric fans, pneumatic drills, road traffic, over-loud radio sets are but a few of the causes. Noise invades one's privacy in the home, the street, at work and when travelling. It is understandable that with more knowledge of the availability of technical and administrative measures of control and measurement there is an increasing demand for its abatement.

Like most forms of nuisance, most of the noise suffered is either unnecessary or capable of prevention and, because it may curtail sleep or otherwise affect health, it is only right that the hand of the local authority should have been strengthened by the appearance on the Statute Book of the Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

In towns and cities and on urban roads, traffic noise is the main background noise against which all other noise nuisances are judged, and it must be reduced.

It is to be hoped that the Noise Abatement Act, 1960, will be given more decisive teeth, by regulations proposing maximum acceptable levels of external noise, and that the regulation to control traffic noise will be modified, and progressively lowered to the level of 83 decibels, as recommended by the Wilson Committee.

Another major noise emitter is the pneumatic drill. The noise from these can be reduced by 30 to 40 per cent without any significant loss of efficiency. This is the main finding of an extensive test programme carried out at the Ministry of Technology, Building Research Station, and completely undermines the belief among contractors that silencers make pneumatic tools more cumbersome and less efficient. It has been shown that it is possible to design effective silencers for particular machines.

In the interim period local authorities and their officers have the difficult task of dealing with noise complaints and having to determine where noise interferes with ordinary physical comfort of human existence sufficiently to become an actionable nuisance. This task is made easier by the use of a sound level meter and the District Public Health Inspectors, upon each investigation, take a number of meter readings in accordance with the formula laid down in the Wilson Committee Report on Noise, before coming to a decision regarding the complaint.

During the year 193 visits were made in connection with alleged noise nuisances. In the cases where statutory nuisances were confirmed, appropriate action was taken in order to secure abatement of the nuisances.

Both the Gas and Electricity Boards operating throughout the Wycombe R.D.C. have been asked to arrange for the use of noise mufflers with pneumatic drills, etc, when such tools are needed.

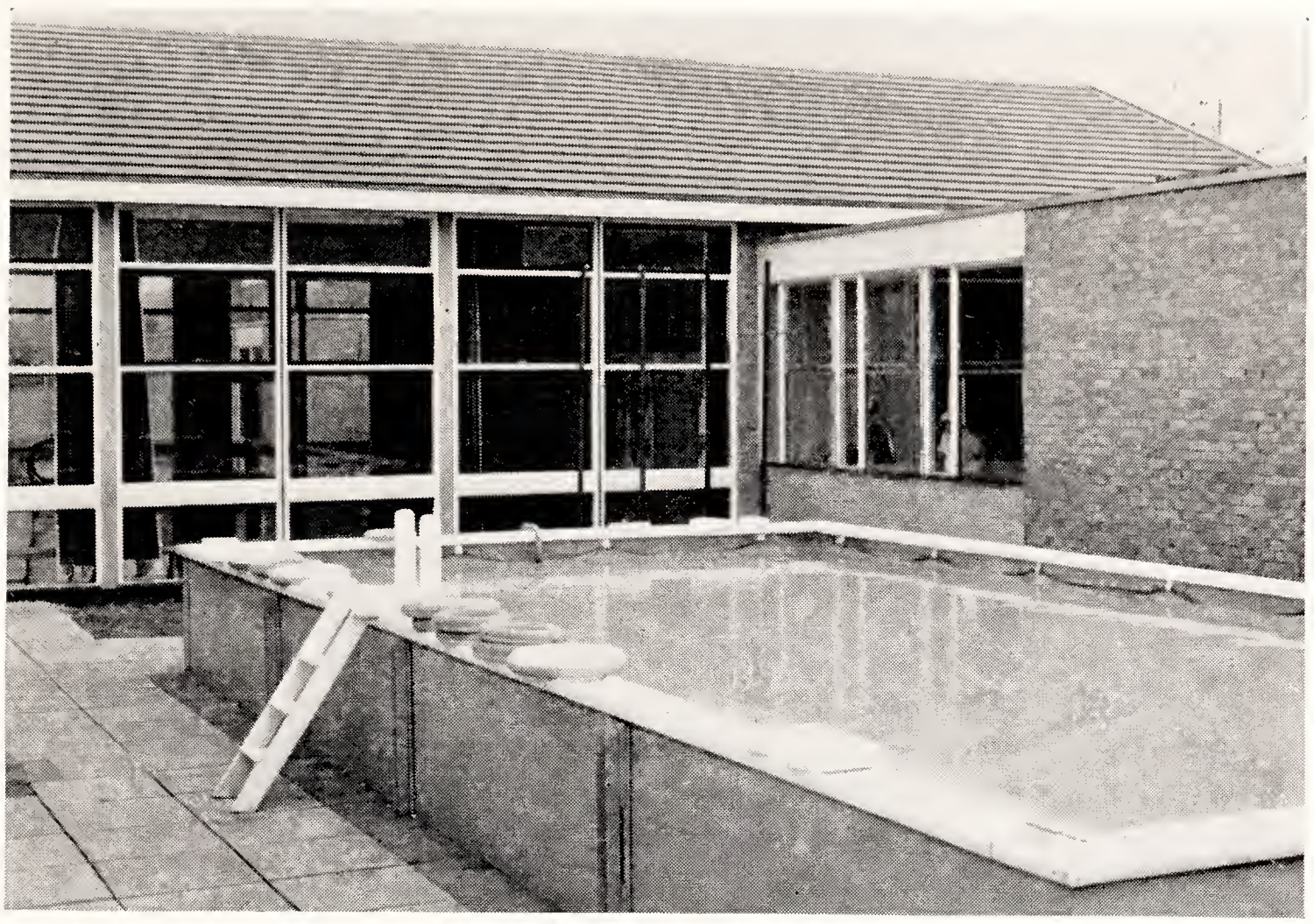
Swimming Pools.

It is suggested that for reasons of both health and safety, swimming instruction should be an essential part of any school curriculum.

In recent years many schools have installed small swimming pools and this trend is increasing. Keeping the pool water pure is of course a most important matter. Water will become discoloured and polluted if left standing, due to residues of bacteria, algae growth, airborne dirt and organic matter introduced by swimmers. To keep pool water healthy and clean a filter unit is necessary and this combined with correct chemical treatment will provide a free chlorine residual which is rapidly bactericidal.

Sampling and testing of water from school swimming pools has now been undertaken by the Public Health Department in order to ensure that the treatment units are being efficiently operated and providing effective water purification.

School Swimming Pools



Typical learner swimming pool.

14 schools in the district are now provided with swimming pools. Samples of water taken from the pools and submitted for bacteriological examination have all been reported as conforming to a satisfactory standard of safety.

The Inspectors also test the water for free residual chlorine and the pH value (acidity or alkalinity) of the water, using a colorimetric comparator.

CONCLUSION.

This report gives some indication of the work of the Council towards improving environmental hygiene standards in the district.

There are still problems to be overcome. Constant vigilance and action is therefore necessary by central government and local authorities supported by an informed public in order to maintain and improve upon the standards we now enjoy.

LIBRARY
11 MAR 1969